



Lunenburg Public Schools

Loxi Jo Calmes
Superintendent of Schools

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, December 1, 2010
Town Hall – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

School Committee

David Reif, Chair
Jason Poitras
Colleen Shapiro
Donna White
Gregory Berthiaume

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Mary Landi

Student Representative

Stephen Flaherty

Guests

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- * Call to Order – Dr. Reif called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
 - * Chairman's Report – Dr. Reif asked the School Committee members if they would consider writing a letter to the MSBA, as the Regional Planning Committee did.
 - * Review and Approve Minutes
 - November 3, 2010 Regular Session Minutes – Approved by Dr. Reif.
 - * Review and Approve Warrants – Warrants were on the table for review and signatures. There was one line item transfer for the special services department.
 - * Superintendent's Report
 - There was a great turnout for the Tree Lighting ceremony, which was held this evening at 6:00 p.m. at TCP, instead of the gazebo, due to the rain. The superintendent thanked everyone involved with the event and she wished everyone a happy holiday season.
 - Superintendent Calmes gave a brief update on the new Tri-Town housing development. One building has its occupancy permit. We have not seen any enrollment yet from either Tri-Town or Emerald Place.
 - * Student Report – Superintendent Calmes introduced LHS Jen Markham as the student representative.
 - The annual Thanksgiving Day rally run by the Renaissance Group was held recently. The Blue Knights won their football game on Thanksgiving.
 - The National Honor Society is sponsoring its annual Toys for Tots drive.
 - Winter sports began this week.
 - The Student Council will be selling candy canes and a portion of the proceeds will go to the Lunenburg Community Council.
 - * Public Comment – None.

* New Business

- a. Action – Donation – Mr. Brendan Grady, Lunenburg resident and IBM employee, informed the committee that it would be receiving a check in the amount of \$1,000 from IBM. This is a program whereby employees can volunteer their time for a non-profit or school district and the company makes a donation based on the amount of time the employee has volunteered. Superintendent Calmes recommended acceptance of the donation. Dr. Berthiaume moved and Mr. Poitras seconded a motion to accept the generous donation from IBM. Vote: unanimous.

Superintendent Calmes said she would be sending a thank you to the students and administration at Monty Tech for the new sidewalk they have installed at the high school.

- b. Discussion – Student Growth Data Instructional Challenges and Opportunities – Superintendent Calmes thanked the LPS administrative team for attending tonight’s school committee meeting. Ms. Karen Martin was in attendance to discuss student growth data for the Lunenburg Schools. Ms. Martin had a PowerPoint presentation looking at today’s reality. She explained that the growth score does not reflect whether the student is in a high-scoring or low-scoring level. The presentation included slides on students scoring at or above proficient in ELA and Math and the median student growth percentile in ELA and Math. She also reviewed performance and growth, grade by grade, in ELA and Math and compared the results to other school districts that are considered comparable to Lunenburg. Ms. Martin reviewed some of the strategies used to help move us forward to the higher growth scores. We must identify and put in place best practices. Ms. Martin reviewed the next steps to be taken in response to the data we have. Dr. Lane went to the podium and explained the new initiatives that TCP will be putting in place to improve student performance. They include Study Island, various after-school programs focusing on different skills/interests, and Power Block – The Trifecta Initiatives. Dr. Reif asked if we have a solid foundation or if it’s time to abandon some of our practices. There was discussion around this question. Ms. Martin responded that deep implementation is the next step. We must also rethink how we use our instructional time.
- c. Discussion – Refreshing SOIs with MSBA – Mr. Londa went to the podium. The Statements of Interest for the middle school and elementary school will be re-submitted. The high school SOI does not need to be re-submitted because it is already in the pipeline. TCP’s roof will drive what needs to be done at that school. The contractor put the repair cost at \$10 per sq. ft., which is a cost of approximately \$500,000. Mr. Londa reported there are many seams that are coming apart on the roof. He recommends refreshing both SOIs without major changes. The due date to the MSBA is January 26. Dr. Berthiaume reported that the telephone conference between the MSBA and North Middlesex has not taken place yet and that is holding things up. The school committee will draft a letter to the MSBA and send it out.
- d. First Reading - Life Threatening Allergy Policy 5712 – Dr. Berthiaume moved and Mr. Poitras seconded a motion to waive the first reading. Vote: unanimous.
- e. Five-Year Financial Projections – Superintendent Calmes began her five-year financial projection presentation by reviewing budgetary needs, which included guaranteed viable curriculum; preparing all students for success in college, career and life; facility needs; technology needs; and enrollment. The superintendent reviewed historical district enrollment by grade, including school choice and non-resident and class size at each of the schools. She presented updated projections through FY16, which keeps enrollment at the status quo. There was also discussion about funding streams and ARRA funds going away. Superintendent

Calmes reminded everyone that expenditures are now being put back into the operating budget. She stressed that we must have a conversation about the expectations and vision for the future of the Lunenburg Public Schools.

* Old Business

- a. Second Reading New & Revised Health Policies - Administration of Medications 5701.01; Automated External Defibrillator 5710; Comfort Care / Do Not Resuscitate Orders 5711 – Dr. Berthiaume moved and Mr. Poitras seconded a motion to waive the second reading. Vote: unanimous.
- b. Second Reading Anti-Bullying Plan and Policy – Ms. Milree Keeling addressed the committee at the podium. Ms. Keeling noted an inconsistency in the policy in that the last sentence in first paragraph does not address adults, but adult behavior is mentioned later in the policy, and the last paragraph seems to address adults only. Ms. Keeling also suggested the addition of “sex and gender identity” under the definition of Harassment. Dr. Berthiaume moved and Mr. Poitras seconded a motion to waive the second reading and simultaneously send it back to the policy sub-committee for review.

* Public Comment

* Reports

- a. Advisory Committee
- b. Finance Committee
- c. School Councils
- d. PTO
- e. Policy Sub-Committee
- f. Capital Planning Committee
- g. Health Advisory Committee
- h. PAC/SAL
- i. Regional Planning Committee
- j. Rep. Benson’s Advisory
- l. Other – language for handbooks is appropriate for the different age levels. Parent handbook can be more parent friendly as well.

* Continuing Projects/Estimated Date of Completion

* Items for Future Discussion

- Workshop Sessions
- Facilities Use Procedure
- Civic Engagement

- * Executive Session – At 8:55 p.m. Dr. Berthiaume moved and Mr. Poitras seconded a motion to enter into executive session, not to return to regular session, for the purpose of discussing strategies related to contract negotiations. Vote: unanimous.

Roll Call

Dr. Reif – yes

Mr. Poitras – yes

Ms. Shapiro – yes

Ms. White – yes

Dr. Berthiaume – yes

- * Adjournment - At 9:25 p.m. Mr. Poitras moved and Mrs. Shapiro seconded a motion to adjourn.
Vote: unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Landi
Recording Secretary

c/5/24/9/mel